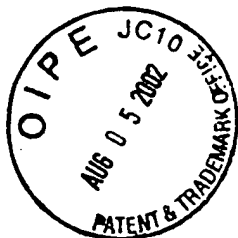


Hoover Case 2578

Patent Application

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



APPLICATION OF: Bilek et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/044,774

FILED: January 11, 2002

FOR: SUCTION NOZZLE  
CONFIGURATION

ART UNIT: 1744

EXAMINER:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)

BOX RESPONSES - NON FEE  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

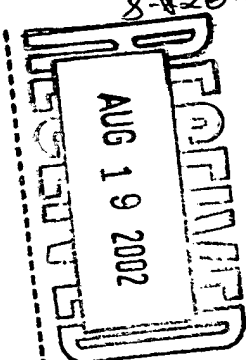
S I R:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants hereby submit the following in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56. Each item of information cited in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Information or art known to the Applicants and having an extent of relevance to the present application has been listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto. The Applicants have employed Form PTO-1449 for the purposes of convenience of the Office and the Examiner.

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No representation is made that the information is pertinent to the claimed subject matter, that the information is non-cumulative, or that the information represents the only or the best information. The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather that it is information of which they are aware and that they believe should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of their duty of disclosure. Any question that may arise regarding priority of a specific reference shall be resolved during prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

BILEK ET AL.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 31st day of July, 2002.

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